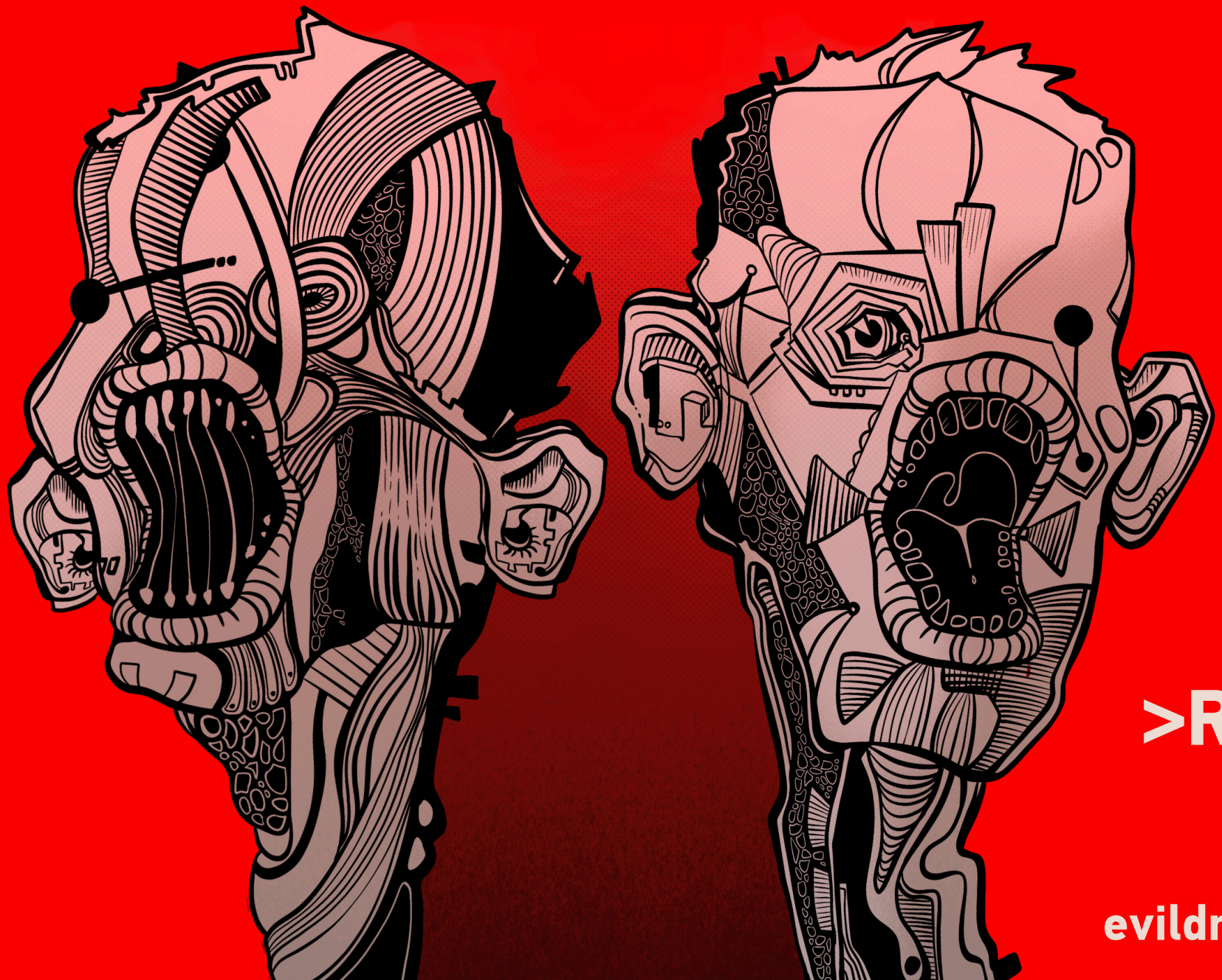


>Rituals of Release<

evildrk.bandcamp.com

Rituals of Release is a concept album that celebrates the thrill of synth-driven experimentation.

It began as a series of collaborations, recorded while patching and tweaking our way through hardware synths. Some sessions revolved around synthesizer keyboards and modules; others delved into the labyrinth of a large modular system.

These tracks are the outcome of those sessions. They may be experienced as abstract studies in gesture and texture, visceral improvisations, or small pieces—each a direct encounter with raw, performance-driven synthetic sound, opening a window into the creative process.

As the project unfolded, the world around us shifted to a darker place: war became routine, authoritarianism took hold, and freedom quietly eroded, while algorithms efficiently turned fear and desire into product.

At some point, our endeavors began to feel like little rituals we relied on to stay afloat. Each track became a snapshot of the apocalyptic mindset, a sonic vignette of a world already in collapse. Paic's artwork captures these emotional and existential tensions, grounding the sound with its unsettling visual presence. In parallel, AI-generated poems add a layer of algorithmic angst to the unfolding narrative.

Woven from the fragments of it all, the album traces a deeper arc rooted in the classical concept of Eudaimonia—the pursuit of a flourishing life through distinct stages of growth. In this continuous cycle, what once was ruin becomes artifact, and what seemed an ending signals the possibility of something new.

If destruction is inevitable, then so is creation.

Invocation

A sweeping pad, layered with glitches, breathes with life. Out of nowhere, a modular synth sequence arises.

A breath stirs—life awakens.
Revelation unfolds
as static dissolves into light,
and the air shimmers
with a hymn to the unseen.

Sound sources:

Evil's custom modular
Sequential Prophet X
Hohner Pianet
Elektron Rytm MKII

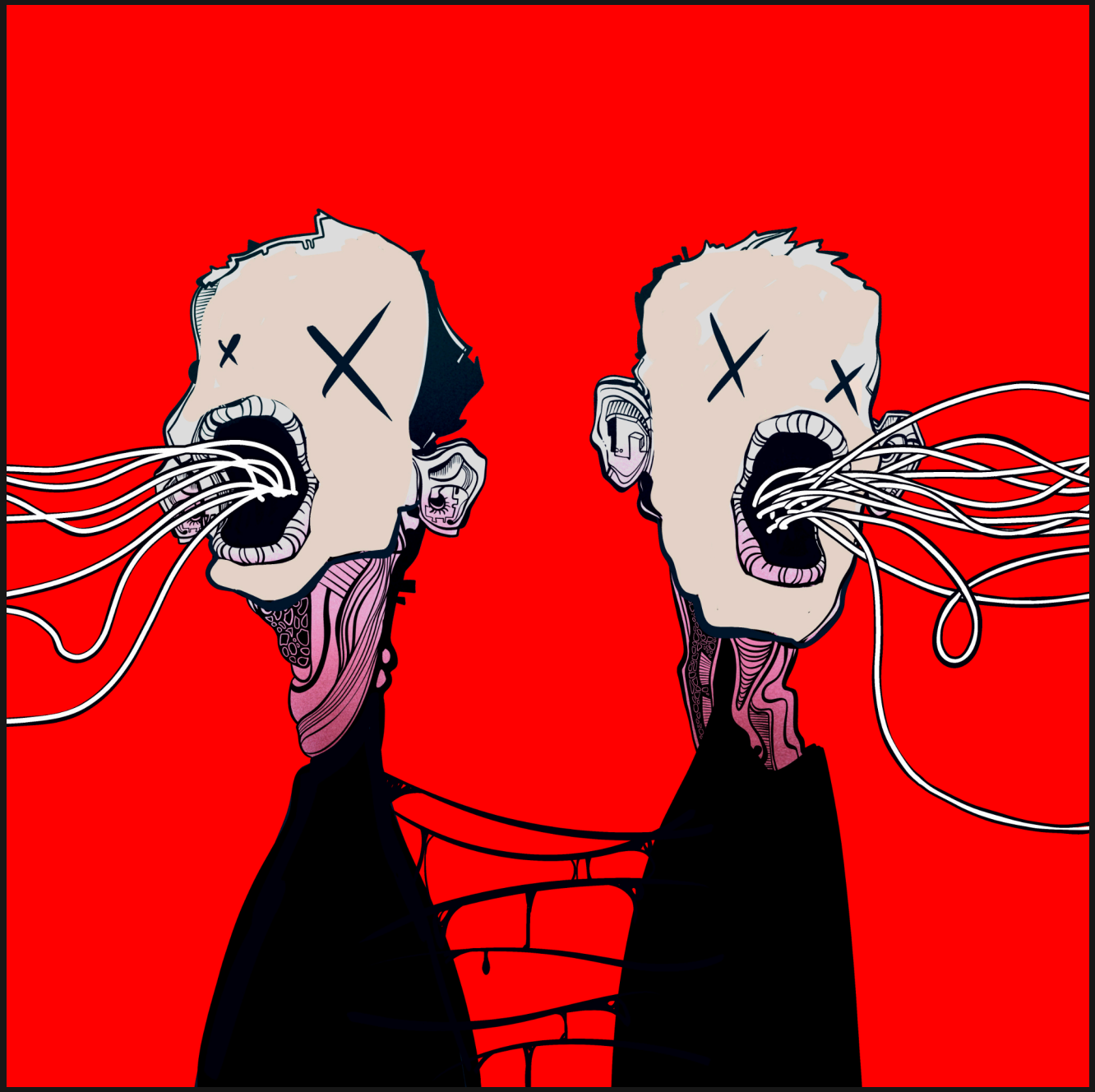
Atavic Attack

As if in a game of musical mimicry, oscillator sequences and human voices chase each other, glissandi morph into diving jet planes, and snare drums explode into bursts of artillery.

Shadows stretch across the skies
cold as needles beneath the skin.
Chaos sharpens its claws,
machines roar as battle howls,
and the land splits wide.
Beneath it all, a faint echo
of what we might have been.

Sound sources:

Evil's custom modular
Sequential Prophet X
Moog Matriarch
Waldorf Iridium
Elektron Rytm MKII



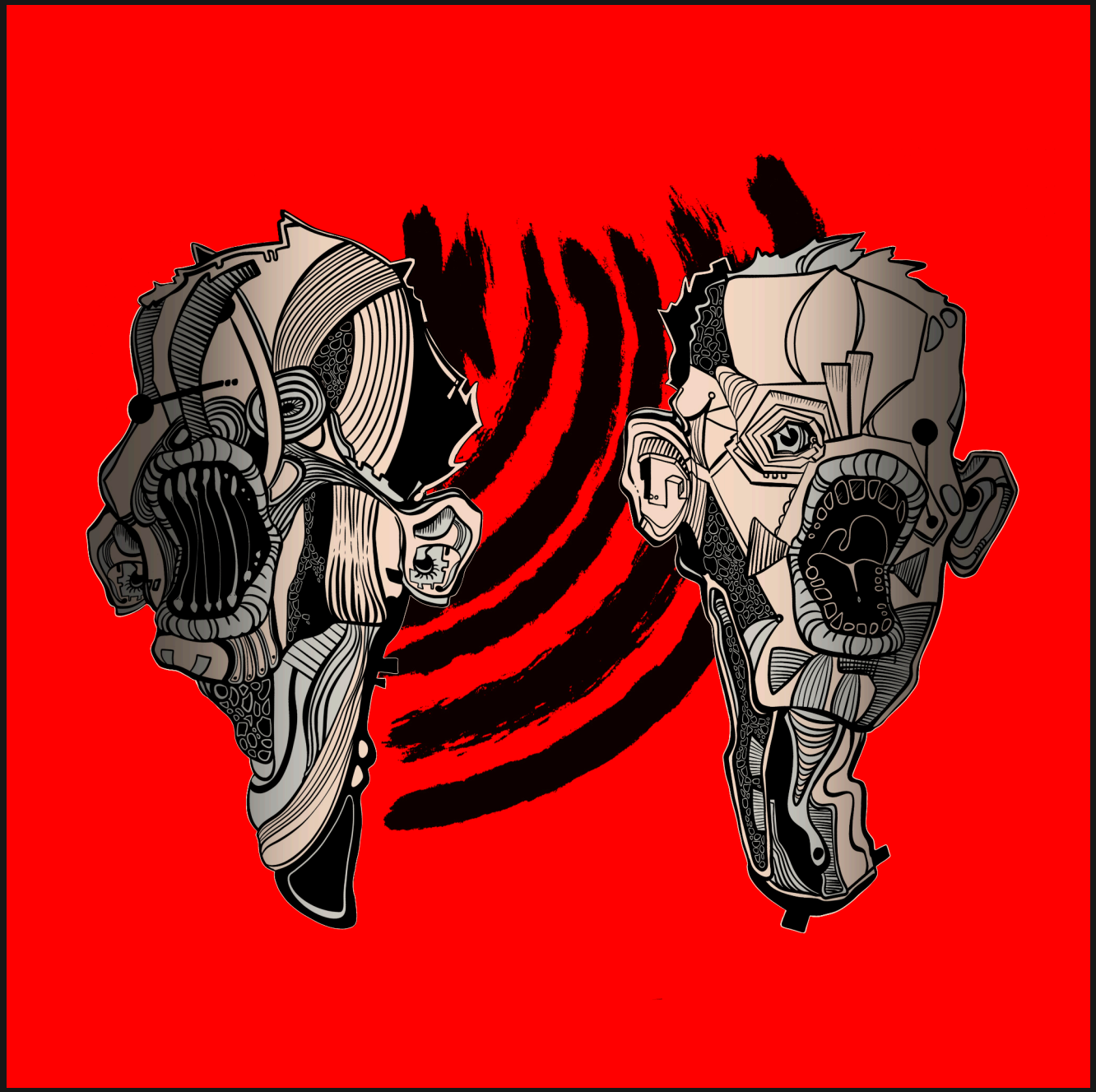
The Zoombeings

A resonant voice intones a cryptic mantra, its repetition grounding a soundscape of analogue drones, expanded windchimes, and glitch-inflected beats.

The descent begins—
a voice heavy with dust,
chants to the hollowed earth,
where drones hum
for those who walk awake in the abyss.

Sound sources:

Sequential Prophet X
Moog Matriarch
Elektron Rytm MKII



In Transit

A pulsating ostinato and crystalline pad unfold, evolving as instrumental textures and shifting patterns weave together, gradually pulling into a world of polyrhythms and motion.

The air is clear.
Threads intertwine, weightless,
sliding through hushed distances
where time softens to a whisper.
No before, no after—
only this vast, enduring now.

Sound sources:

Evil's custom modular
Sequential Prophet X
Moog Matriarch
Waldorf Iridium

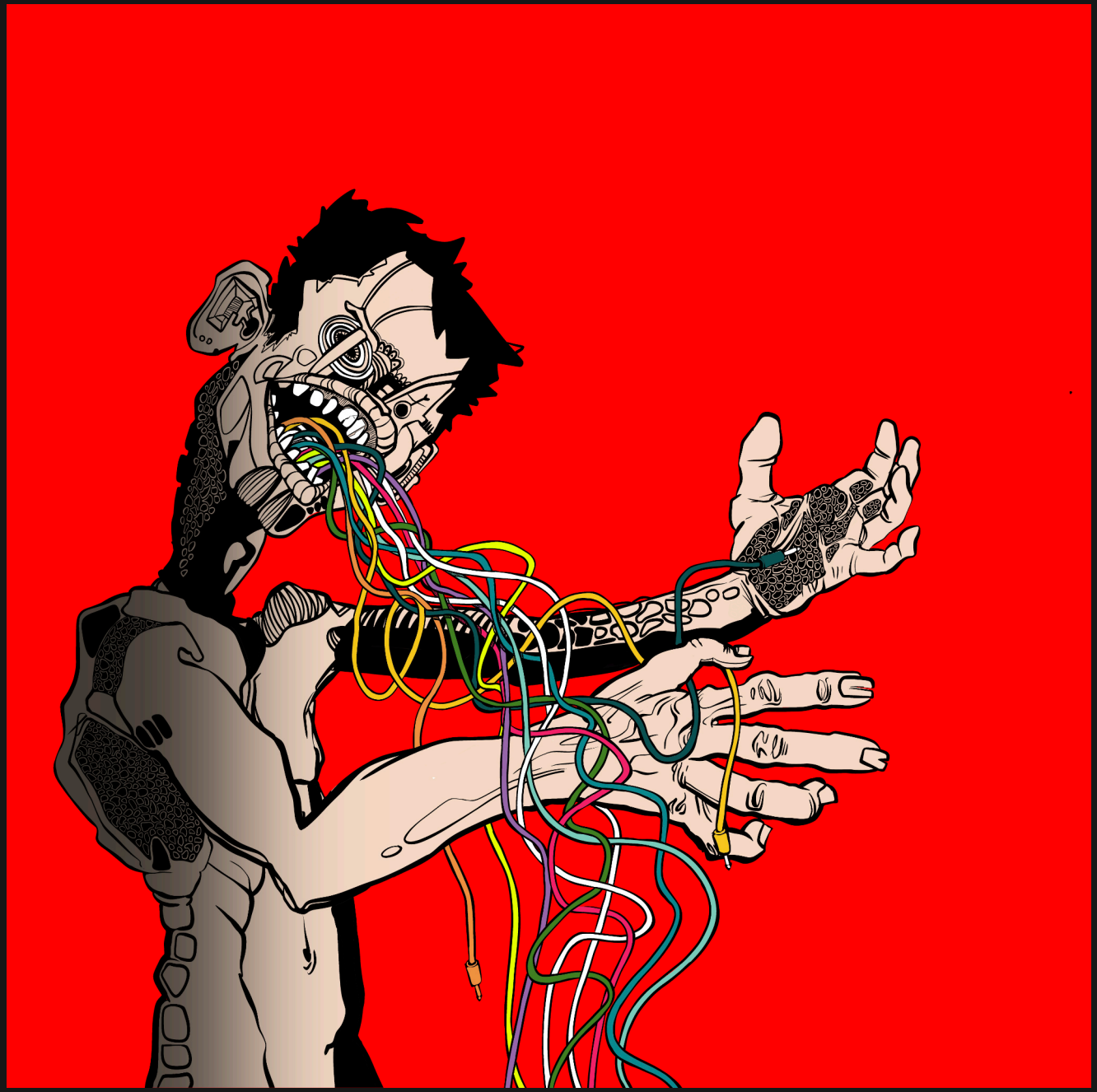
Joe's Revenge

A vibey polysynth and a monophonic arpeggio, drift through hums, pings, and chimes. The track climaxes with a blend of speech and electronics, then fades into a gentle tremolo, setting the stage for what's next.

From the wreckage,
a new order rises,
haunted by whispers
of a past that never was.
Rebirth carries with it
a seductive promise of renewal,
yet the spectre of oppression
lurks ever near.

Sound sources:

Sequential Prophet X
Moog Matriarch
Waldorf Iridium



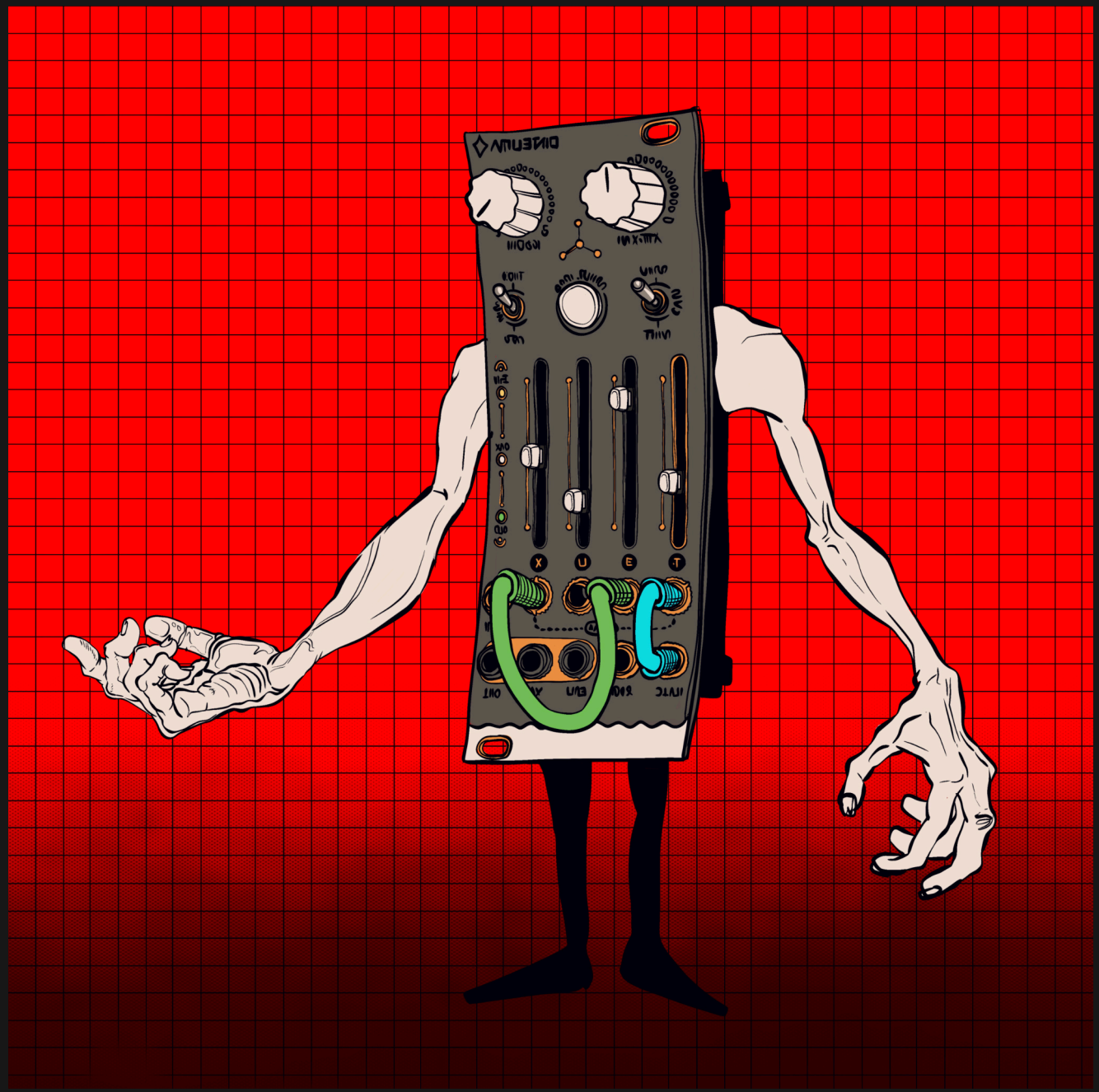
Dopamine Dreams

Supported by tremolo and string layers, an undulating modular sequence evolves.
Then, a groovy chord joins in, and together, they spiral into a vortex of glissandi.
By the end, a quiet sense of flourishing and inner peace settles.

The circle closes—
but peace?
The rush fades,
the daimons leave,
silence remains,
and what of us?

Sound sources:

Evil's custom modular
Sequential Prophet X
Moog Matriarch
Waldorf Iridium



Sweep Right on Freedom

(Bonus Track)

A sweeping pad meanders unpredictably—warped with clicks and bends—through analogue landscapes and shifting beats.

The synth performance underpinning Tracks 1 and 2, presented as a single continuous piece, stripped of added samples.

Sound sources:

Evil's custom modular
Sequential Prophet X
Moog Matriarch
Waldorf Iridium

Invocation (1:54)

Atavic Attack (3:32)

The Zoombeings (4:25)

In Transit (5:49)

Joe's Revenge (3:22)

Dopamine Dreams (6:04)

Sweep Right on Freedom (Bonus Track) (5:26)

Produced by:
Evil & Dr. K

Written and Composed by:
Evil & Dr. K

Recorded at:
Evil & Dr. K's home studios – Berlin, Madrid
August, October 2023

Performed by:
Evil & Dr. K

Sound Design and Engineering:
Evil & Dr. K

Mixing and Mastering:
Evil & Dr. K

Artwork and Design:
Paic

Special Thanks:
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and SoundsExciting (Freesound) for contributing the war sounds, all used in accordance with Pixabay's free license.

About the Artists:
Rituals of Release marks the first official collaboration between Dr. K and Evil, after 20 years of shared creativity and friendship.

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